



U.S. EPA, Lockheed Corporation, Weber Aircraft and City of Burbank Sign Agreement to Conduct Cleanup Activities

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco

Fact Sheet No. 7

September 1991

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the City of Burbank, the Lockheed Corporation (Lockheed) and Weber Aircraft, Inc. (Weber Aircraft) have signed an agreement under which Lockheed will design and construct a groundwater treatment system to clean up contamination in the Burbank area. EPA estimates the current value of the work at \$60 million. Weber Aircraft will contribute \$3.75 million to be used toward the design and construction costs. The treated water will be blended with water from existing water supplies of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and distributed

by the City of Burbank through its public water supply system. Any excess water will be reinjected into the groundwater aquifer.*

The treatment facility constructed by Lockheed will remove the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that have contaminated the water. However, the water may also contain nitrates which will not be removed by the treatment plant. The nitrate levels will be reduced to below drinking water standards by blending the treated water with water which does not contain high levels of nitrates.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The agreement between Lockheed, Weber Aircraft, EPA, and the City of Burbank is contained in a legally binding document known as a Consent Decree. This document is available for public review at the EPA Superfund Records Center in San Francisco. EPA has placed a copy of the Consent Decree at the information repositories listed on the last page of this fact sheet. If the copy is not available, contact Fraser Felter at 415/744-2181 to receive a copy. If you wish to comment on the decree, you must submit comments in writing, to:

Barry M. Hartman
Assistant Attorney General
Land and Natural Resources Division
Department of Justice
Tenth and Pennsylvania Avenues, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
Attn: Burbank Consent Decree

Comments will be received by the Department of Justice up to and including October 5, 1991. Comments should refer specifically to the United States versus the City of Burbank, the Lockheed Corporation and Weber Aircraft, Inc., D.J. Reference No. 90-11-2-442. After the comment period closes, the federal government will prepare responses to all significant public comments. The Department of Justice will consider all of the comments and decide whether the settlement is still appropriate and adequate in light of the comments. If the Department of Justice still thinks that the Decree should be made effective, it will request the Court to enter the Decree. A judge assigned to oversee this government action will review the comments and responses and determine if the agreement between Lockheed, Weber Aircraft, EPA, and the City of Burbank is in the public interest and should therefore be made effective. The final settlement and responses to comments will be available for public review.

*Boldface words are defined in the glossary on page 4.

SITE BACKGROUND

The San Fernando Valley is located between the San Gabriel Mountains and the Santa Monica Mountains. Several groundwater basins in the valley are collectively referred to as the San Fernando Valley Basin. The basin is an important source of drinking water for the Los Angeles metropolitan area, La Crescenta, and the cities of Glendale, Burbank, and San Fernando (Figure 1).

In 1986, EPA placed four sites in the San Fernando Valley Basin on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is a list of the most seriously contaminated hazardous waste sites eligible for federal cleanup funds under the Superfund program. As shown on Figure 1, the four sites are North Hollywood, Crystal Springs, Verdugo, and Pollock. The sites are located in the cities of Los Angeles, Burbank, and Glendale. Although specific groundwater cleanup actions are taking place at each site, EPA manages the entire San Fernando Valley Basin cleanup as one large site referred to as the San Fernando Valley Study Area.

WORK TO BE PERFORMED

Based upon a feasibility study of alternative methods to clean up the site, public comments on the recommended plan, and other Burbank Study Area information, EPA selected the interim cleanup methods for the site in a Record of Decision (ROD) issued May 1989 and an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) issued November 1990. The selected interim groundwater cleanup method involves pumping groundwater from wells installed for cleanup purposes and then forcing air or steam into the water (using air or steam strippers) to remove contamination. The treated water will then be distributed by the City of Burbank through its public water supply system, or reinjected into the aquifer.

In the Consent Decree, Lockheed has agreed to design and construct a plant which can treat 12,000 gallons per minute (gpm) of groundwater. The plant will be constructed in three phases. The first phase will treat 6,000

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN SUPERFUND SITE

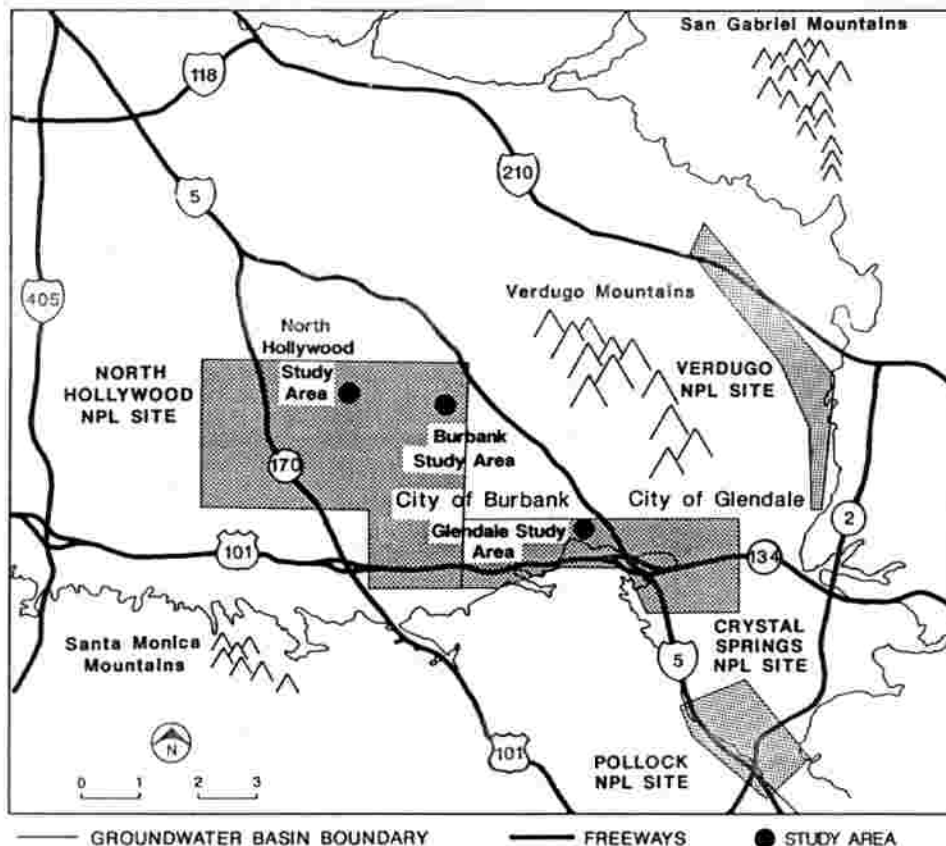


Figure 1

gpm; the second, 9,000 gpm; and the final, 12,000 gpm. Lockheed will pay for the operation and maintenance costs for two years after the completion of Phase 3.

Burbank will design and construct facilities to disinfect and convey the treated water to a blending facility. Lockheed will pay for the costs of performing this work up to \$200,000.

Burbank will accept all the treated water it can use. The remaining water will be reinjected into the aquifer by Lockheed.

POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

As part of its investigation of the Burbank Study Area, EPA identified parties (known as potentially responsible parties or PRPs) it believes may be legally responsible for the cleanup of contamination at the site. This fact sheet explains the work to be done under the Consent Decree signed by EPA and three PRPs, Lockheed, Weber Aircraft, and the City of Burbank.

ADDITIONAL TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT

Additional terms of the Consent Decree require Lockheed to:

- Control air emissions from air or steam strippers to comply with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and EPA standards.
- Pay EPA's future costs connected to the Burbank site during the time the Consent Decree is in effect and reimburse EPA for its past costs at the Burbank site in the amount of \$1,958,930.

In addition, Lockheed, Weber Aircraft, and the City of Burbank will become liable for stipulated penalties if they fail to comply with the terms of the agreement.

WHAT IS SUPERFUND AND HOW IS IT FUNDED?

In 1980, Congress passed a law called the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly called the Superfund. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) was passed by Congress in 1986 to update and improve the Superfund law. The law authorizes the federal government to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health, welfare, or the environment. Legal actions can be taken to force parties responsible for causing the contamination to clean up those sites or reimburse the Superfund for the costs of cleanup. If those responsible for site contamination cannot be found or are unwilling or unable to clean up a site, EPA can use monies from Superfund to clean up a site. The Superfund is actually the trust fund that

finances these cleanup actions. CERCLA established a \$1.6 billion fund made up of taxes on crude oil and commercial chemicals. When the Superfund was reauthorized by Congress in 1986, the fund was increased to \$3.6 billion. These monies are made available to the Superfund directly from excise taxes on petroleum and feedstock chemicals, a tax on certain imported chemical derivatives, an environmental tax on corporations, appropriations made by Congress from general tax revenues, and any monies recovered or collected from parties responsible for site contamination. Reauthorization of the Superfund was incorporated into the 1991 budget legislation recently passed by Congress and signed by the President. This provided an additional \$5.1 billion and authority to continue funding under the existing program through September 30, 1994.

WORK REQUIRED BY THE ROD NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SETTLEMENT

The following are items which are necessary for the completion of the remedy described in the Burbank ROD, but which are not part of this settlement. EPA intends to have these tasks performed through future enforcement actions or judicial settlements:

- The design and construction of a facility to blend the treated water with water received from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- The performance of operation and maintenance of the treatment facility beyond the two years covered in the agreement

MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE REMEDY

The Consent Decree also contains some nonsignificant modifications to the remedy selected by the ROD and Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). These modifications are so minor that they do not need to be described in an ESD. The modifications all relate to the conditions under which Lockheed may discharge extracted water and the hazardous waste and air regulations which must be followed. For specific details, see Consent Decree, Section VII, Subpart F.

Glossary

AIR/STEAM STRIPPING: A treatment method that removes volatile organic compounds from contaminated water by forcing air or steam through the water. The volatile chemicals evaporate when exposed to the air.

AQUIFER: A particular zone or layer of rock or soil below the earth's surface through which groundwater moves in sufficient quantity to serve as a source of water.

CONTAMINANT PLUME: A three-dimensional zone within the groundwater aquifer containing contaminants that generally move in the direction of, and with, groundwater flow.

ESD (Explanation of Significant Differences): A document which describes significant but not fundamental changes which have been made to a remedial action plan described in the ROD. Fundamental changes are described in a ROD amendment.

FEASIBILITY STUDY: An analysis of cleanup or remedial alternatives to evaluate their effectiveness and to enable EPA to identify a preferred alternative.

GAC (Granular Activated Carbon): An adsorptive material that attracts and holds contaminants. GAC has been demonstrated to be especially effective due to its large adsorption surface area.

GROUNDWATER: Underground water that saturates pores in soils or openings in rock.

NPL (National Priorities List): A list of the top-priority hazardous substance sites in the country that are eligible for investigation and cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

NITRATE: A salt of nitric acid, which is colorless, corrosive acid containing nitrogen.

PRP (Potentially Responsible Party): An individual, company, or other entity potentially responsible and therefore potentially liable for the cost of cleaning up contamination at a Superfund site.

ROD (Record of Decision): A public document that explains what cleanup alternative will be used at a specific NPL site. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

VOC (Volatile Organic Compound): An organic (carbon containing) compound that evaporates readily at room temperature. VOCs are commonly used in dry cleaning, metal plating and machinery degreasing.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Superfund program places a high priority on community involvement during hazardous waste cleanups at Superfund sites. If you would like more information or have questions about the Consent Decree or other study-related activities within the Burbank Study Area, please contact the following individuals:

Fraser Felter
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
(415) 744-2181

Terry Wilson
Media Contact
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne Street (E-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
(415) 744-1578

Chris Stubbs
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. EPA
75 Hawthorne Street (H-6-4)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
(415) 744-2248

If you are not currently on the Burbank Study Area mailing list and would like to receive future fact sheets, please call EPA's Toll-Free Information Line at (800) 231-3075.

BURBANK STUDY AREA INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Copies of the Consent Decree and the Burbank Operable Unit Administration Record, which is a file containing other study-related documents have been placed for public review at the following five locations. If the copies are not available, contact Fraser Felter, Community Relations Coordinator, at (415) 744-2181.

California State University Northridge Library
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330
(818) 885-2285
Contact: Mary Finley

L.A.D.W.P. Library
111 North Hope Street, Room 518
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 481-4612
Contact: Joyce Purcell

The University Research Library/U.C.L.A.
Public Affairs Service
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 825-3135
Contact: Barbara Silvermail

City of Glendale Public Library
222 East Harvard Street
Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 956-2027
Contact: Lois Brown

City of Burbank Public Library
110 North Glenoaks Boulevard
Burbank, CA 91502
(818) 953-9741
Contact: Helen Wang

We Strongly Urge You to Review and Comment on the Burbank Operable Unit Consent Decree.



MAILING LIST COUPON

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail and would like to be included on the San Fernando Valley Basin mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return it to the EPA Office of Community Relations.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Organization/Affiliation (if any): _____

Return to:

Office of Community Relations, U.S. EPA, 75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1), San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (H-1-1)
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Attn: Fraser Felter

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